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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
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Dear Sir:

Enclosed are copies of the publications which were cited in the International Search Report of International Application No. PCT/IB99/01354. Also enclosed is a copy of Form PTO-1449 and the International Search Report.

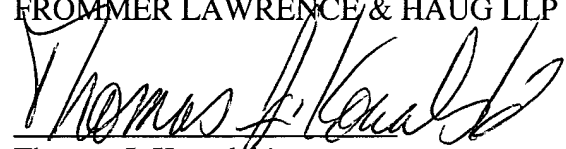
Entry of this Information Disclosure Statement and an early examination on the merits are respectfully solicited.

Please charge any additional fees to Deposit Account No. 50-0320.

Respectfully submitted,

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Enclosures